

County of San Luis Obispo

Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board



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**Agricultural Liaison
Advisory Board (ALAB)**

Positions/Members/Terms

CHAIR: R. Don Warden

District One: Ovitt Appt.
Dan Westigard, (1/09)

District Two: Gibson Appt.
Lisen Bonnier (1/11)

District Three: Lenthall Appt.
Tom Ikeda (1/09)

District Four: Achadjian Appt.
Bill Struble (1/11)

District 5: Patterson Appt.
Christine Maguire (1/09)

Agriculture Finance Rep.
Mark Pearce (8/10)

Cattlemen Rep.
Dick Nock

Coastal San Luis RCD Rep.
Jean-Pierre Wolff (8/11)

Direct Marketing/Organic Rep.
Eric Michielssen (4/12)

Environmental Rep.
Anne McMahon (5/11)

Farm Bureau Rep.
R. Don Warden

Nursery Rep.
David Pruitt (4/12)

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD Rep.
Charles Pritchard (1/10)

Vegetable Rep.
Richard Quandt (4/12)

Wine Grape Rep.
Neil Roberts (4/12)

County Agricultural Commissioner
Bob Lilley, *Ex-Officio*

U.C. Coop. Extension / Farm Advisor
Mary Bianchi, *Ex-Officio*

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 1, 2008

Guests Present: Morgan Torell, Dee Lacey, Linda Chipping (RCD)

Absent Members: Anne McMahon, Chuck Pritchard

1. Call to Order: 7:05 PM. Quorum Present

2. Open comment

New sulfur dioxide rules

Jean-Pierre Wolff indicated he was caught by surprise by the new Department of Pesticide Regulation sulfur dioxide requirements. He would like to explore an appeal to DPR to make rules more practical and enforceable.

Neil Roberts agreed as sulfur dioxide is used at all wineries in the processing of grapes. He recommended the Agriculture Department should work with grape processors to begin dialogue.

3. Member/agency reports

- Agriculture Department (Brenda Ouwerkerk)
 - On behalf of Bob Lilley, Brenda reminded everyone about annual crop report surveys arriving January 1, 2009,
 - Planning Department priority list at Board of Supervisors (BOS) January 20, 2009. Ag clusters will be discussed.
 - Agriculture Department participated in Health Commission meeting November 17, 2008. The Commission will readdress pesticide related issues in two years.
 - The county received an avocado disaster declaration and to contact Jennifer Anderson for more information.
- Mary Bianchi-
 - Marry Bianchi indicated Royce Larsen will return from sabbatical January 8, 2009. She also indicated the crop report is an important decision making tool.
- Mark Pearce-
 - Mark provided the final draft TDC Blue Ribbon Committee report. The BOS will have a hearing to discuss on January 13, 2009.

4. Minutes: November 3, 2008 ALAB minutes approved. Motion – Tom. 2nd – Bill. Approved: Unanimous.

5. County's Economic Strategy Element, Morgan Torell, Department of Planning and Building

- Dana Lilley could not attend due to illness. Morgan Torell filled in for Dana and indicated the Planning Dept. is in the initial stages of preparing an Economic Strategy that may replace the existing Economic Element. The Strategy would include a limited number of programs and infrastructure financing for a 5-year time frame. ALAB could provide input on an agricultural economic strategy if desired. The strategy will not be adopted as part of the General Plan whereas the Economic Element was. Draft document should be available for review by summer or fall of 2009.
- NO ACTION TAKEN

6. Farm Worker Housing and the Housing Element Update – Morgan Torell, Department of Planning and Building

- The draft updated Housing Element will be going to BOS for approval in August and later to the State.
- The reason Morgan attended ALAB is because she needs to evaluate farm worker housing needs and to plan for such housing. Her evaluation will include a determination if new programs for farm worker housing may be necessary. She is looking to gain a better understanding of existing farm worker housing and potential future needs. There are currently 33 units in the county, averaging 1,270 square feet in size. (about 60% mobile homes, 39% stick built)
- 2004 Housing Element explained that some farm workers want to live close to services while others don't. She is looking to the ag community to gain a better understanding of needs of growers/workers. She is in the process of evaluating if there should be policies to encourage housing on ag land or closer to services.
- Morgan indicated state determines definition of affordability.
- Several questions and concerns were raised regarding how farm worker housing fit into the housing element. Morgan suggested a small roundtable of ALAB members and others in the ag community for input on this issue. Neil Roberts indicated interest.
- Morgan indicated a draft document should be available for public review during February, 2009.
- NO ACTION TAKEN

7. AGP16 – Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District Conservation Programs, Jean-Pierre Wolff and Linda Chipping

- Linda Chipping and Jean-Pierre of the San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) provided a PowerPoint history of the district.
- RCDs use a holistic approach to conservation and easements. They work in a partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Services include, but are not limited to, farm/ranch conservation plan development, watershed plan development, habitat restoration, permitting, farm/ranchland conservation easements, review of grading, drainage and erosion control plans, irrigation improvements, stream bank

erosion control, sediment removal and control, grazing management systems, riparian fencing and planting, upland erosion control and off stream water development.

- Contact: Phone 772.4391 or <http://www.coastalrcd.org>
- NO ACTION TAKEN

8. NEXT MEETING – January 5, 2009

Future agenda items

- ALAB Operation Procedures revisions (Should we meet on second Monday of month and should we meet during regular business hours?): Brenda Ouwerkerk
- Conservation Element: James Caruso
- Nature Conservancy - future
- Planning priorities – future
- Grading Ordinance – (May, June)

Meeting adjourned: 8.45 PM